



Alaska Tobacco Facts

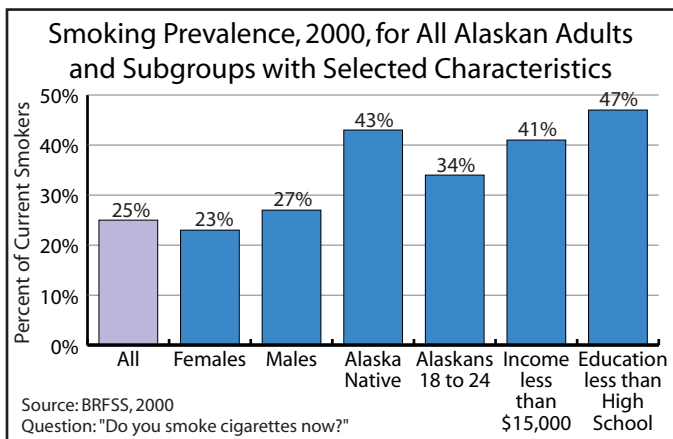
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES
DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH
DATA AND EVALUATION UNIT

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One quarter of adult Alaskans smoke cigarettes. Only eleven of the other 49 states have higher smoking rates. Adult smoking rates remained constant throughout the 1990s. (BRFSS, 2000)

Adult smoking rates are highest in the rural region (38%) and lowest in Anchorage (24%). (BRFSS, 1999)

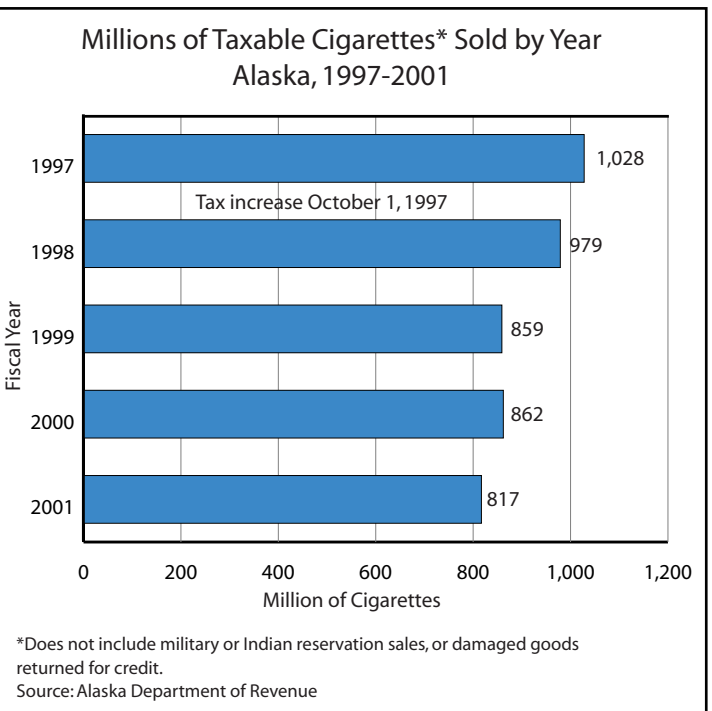
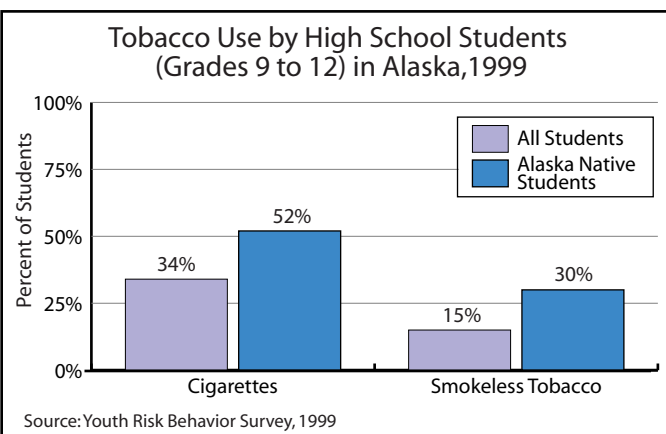
Alaska Natives have the highest smoking rates of any racial group in the state. Nearly half (43%) of Alaska Native adults are current smokers. Smoking rates show only part of the exposure to tobacco. The use of chewing tobacco, snuff, and traditional smokeless tobacco products is widespread in parts of rural Alaska. 12% of Alaska Natives use smokeless tobacco, compared to 4% of all Alaskans. (BRFSS, 2000)



Smoking rates are high for:

- Young adults 18 to 24 (34%)
 - People with annual incomes under \$15,000 (41%)
 - Those with less than a high school education (47%)
- (BRFSS, 2000)

In 1999, 34% of high school students surveyed reported that they had smoked at least one cigarette, and 15% had used smokeless tobacco, at least once in the previous 30 days. Alaska Native students reported higher rates of use for both tobacco products. (YRBS, 1999)

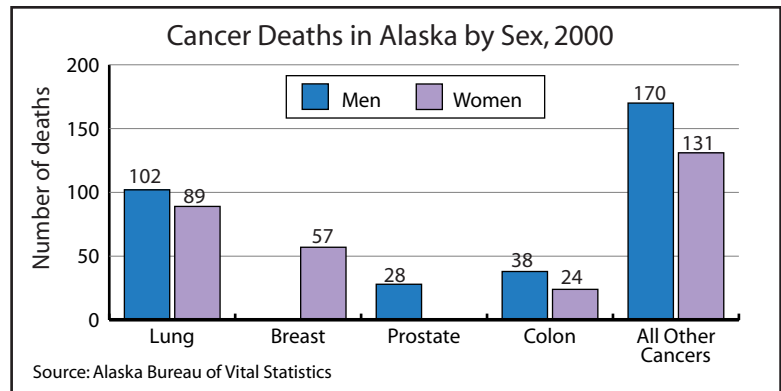


Cigarette taxes were raised 71 cents per pack in 1997. This lower taxable sales volume has been maintained for three years. (Alaska Department of Revenue, 2002)

Among Alaskan women with a recent live birth, 19% reported smoking cigarettes during the last three months of pregnancy (PRAMS, 1998).

Lung cancer is the most common cause of cancer deaths in Alaska. In 2000, 191 Alaska residents died of lung cancer, 30% of all cancer deaths (total 639).

(Alaska Bureau of Vital Statistics, 2002)



Healthy Alaskans 2010 Chapter 3. *Tobacco Use* Goal for 2010: Reduce illness, disability, and death related to tobacco use and exposure to secondhand smoke.

	Selected indicators*	Alaska Data Source	US Baseline	Alaska Baseline	Alaska Target Year 2010
1	Decrease proportion of high school students who have used any tobacco products in the past 30 days (% students grades 9-12 who have smoked cigarettes or cigars or used chewing tobacco or snuff in the past 30 days).	YRBS	40% (1999)	39% (1999) 59% AK Native	20%
2	Decrease the proportion of high school students who have smoked cigarettes on one or more of the past 30 days.	YRBS	35% (1999)	34% (1999) 52% AK Native	17%
3	Decrease the proportion of high school students who have used smokeless tobacco on one or more of the past 30 days	YRBS	8% (1999)	15% (1999) 28% AK Native	8%
4	Decrease the proportion of middle school students who currently smoke cigarettes.	YRBS		21% (1999) 29% AK Native	11%
5	Increase the proportion of middle school students who never smoked a cigarette, not even one or two puffs.	YRBS		43% (1999) 27% AK Native	64%
8	Reduce the percentage of adults who smoke cigarettes (% 18 + who currently smoke cigarettes).	BRFSS	23% (1999)	27% (1999) 42% AK Native	14%
9	Reduce the percent of adults who use smokeless tobacco (% 18 + who currently use chewing tobacco, snuff or both).	BRFSS		5% (1999) 12% AK Native	3%
10	Increase smoking cessation attempts among adults (% 18 + who smoke every day who quit for at least one day in the past 12 months).	BRFSS	51% (1999) NHIS ¹	60% (1999) 64% AK Native	90%
11	Increase smoking cessation attempts among adolescents (percent of high school students grades 9-12 who smoked on 20 or more of the past 30 days who have ever tried to quit).	YRBS		40% (1999) 42% AK Native	60%
12	Increase the percentage of pregnant smokers who quit smoking during the first trimester of pregnancy and remain smoke-free throughout the pregnancy.	PRAMS	31% (1991)	30% (1998)	45%
13	Reduce the proportion of children exposed to tobacco smoke at home (percent of households in which someone has smoked in the past 30 days and at least one child aged 0-4 years lives in the home).	BRFSS	27% (1994) 0-6 year olds NHIS ²	23% (1998)	12%

¹ US data here are **BRFSS** national median for 1999. Healthy People uses NHIS, and a different definition.

² **BRFSS** and **NHIS** use different definitions: NHIS is percent of children, and BRFSS is percent of households.

YRBS - Alaska Youth Risk Behavior Survey. Alaska sample for 1999 did not include Anchorage.

High school data for 1999 are weighted and representative of the state student population excluding Anchorage.

BRFSS - Alaska Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System. US BRFSS data are age-adjusted to the 2000 population; the Alaska BRFSS data have not been age adjusted, so direct comparisons are not advised.

PRAMS - Alaska Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System

NHIS - National Health Interview Survey

* Note: Indicators 6, 7 and 14 from Chapter 3 are developmental Indicators for which measures are required.